

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

April 13, 2004



SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
PRESERVATION
& OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT

747 Mendocino Avenue
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95401-4850
(707) 565-7360
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Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bay Area Open Space Council Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Morabito:

As General Manager of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District I respectfully urge your approval of the Bay Area Open Space Council grant proposal before you for your consideration.

State-local partnerships are the hallmark of the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Conservancy Program and has helped bring a regional perspective to local conservation efforts. Additionally, this critical program has assisted Sonoma County in building the capacity to undertake a number of critical open space and recreation projects.

The SCAPOSD is one of the top ten farmland and open space preservation programs in the Nation. Our District was established in 1990, and funded through a 20-year voter approved one-quarter percent sales tax. As we plan for reauthorization of the District's funding measure, we are evaluating what should be our future focus and what are our organizational options. The Bay Area Open Space Council has developed considerable expertise in land conservation techniques, identifying conservation goals and designing appropriate organizational structures. We hope to work with the Council in evaluating our experience to-date, comparing it with programs elsewhere in the region and the nation, and obtaining guidance for our future direction. The responsibility for funding the evaluation of our District's options is of course primarily ours. In addition, we along with our other partners in the region provide financial support to the Council so that it can fulfill its regional role. Nonetheless, the grant proposal before you is essential because it helps the Council maintain the information network and research program which is a pre-requisite for the technical assistance they provide to agencies like ours.

The proposal also contains a request for funding to help refine regional habitat and open space goals. Having a clearer understanding of regional goals will help us considerably as we shape our plans for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

c: Mike Reilly, Fifth District Supervisor
John Woodbury, BAOSC Coordinator

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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April 8, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Grant Proposal from the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Marin Agricultural Land Trust would like to express its support for the above-referenced grant.

The Bay Area Open Space Council provides a unique service to the nine-county Bay Area, bringing together more than 50 public agencies and non-profit land conservation organizations with land conservation and outdoor recreational responsibilities in the region. Through this partnership built on local initiative a strong regional perspective has been fostered. This regional partnership has played a major role in the formation of the Bay Area Conservancy Program. A portion of the requested grant would help the partnership continue to work with the Bay Program, by providing information, research on issues of regional concern, and guidance on regional priorities.

One component of the grant which is of particular value to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust is the technical assistance and development of professional training materials related to conservation easements. MALT is a leader in the use of easements to protect agricultural lands and related open space resources. Through our experience we know first-hand the unique challenges posed by easements, and the need for the type of technical assistance and professional training proposed by the Council. The Council has in past years undertaken several related studies and projects, and is nationally recognized for its work on conservation easements.

Your approval of the requested grant would be a great benefit for both our organization and for the region.

Sincerely,

Robert Berner
Executive Director

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Post Office Box 2208
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conservancy@pacbell.net
www.trivalleyconservancy.org

Sharon Burnham
Executive Director

April 6, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bay Area Open Space Council Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Tri-Valley Conservancy I would like to express our support for the Bay Area Open Space Council's request for grant funding.

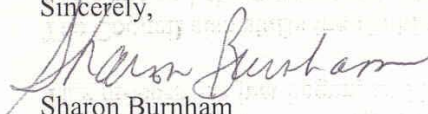
The proposed grant will support several important projects. In our local area, the Council has taken the lead in pulling together a diverse coalition of environmental, business and agricultural organizations and agencies to develop countywide open space and agricultural goals, and an organizational and funding strategy for achieving those goals. This process has just begun, and is expected to take about 18 months to complete.

The Council also staffs the Diablo Ridgeland Working Group. Through this working group we and about two dozen other agencies and organizations have looked at this upland area in a comprehensive way, identifying the resources values of the Ridgeland and areas where high priority attention is needed. The habitat corridor between Mount Hamilton and Mount Diablo, passing through the Altamont Pass, has through this process been identified as needing immediate attention. The grant proposal before you will help us take the next steps in doing detailed habitat studies and developing protection strategies.

More generally, the Council continues to fill a unique and valuable role in coordinating the work of over 50 public agencies and non-profit land conservation organizations in the region. This coordinated approach fulfills the mandate of the Bay Area Conservancy Program to work in partnership with local agencies and organizations in achieving its park, habitat, recreational and agricultural protection goals.

I urge you to approve the requested grant.

Sincerely,


Sharon Burnham
Executive Director

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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April 13, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Grant Proposal from the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Morabito:

We are delighted to support the grant application by the Bay Area Open Space Council. The California State Parks Foundation has been working closely with the Bay Area Open Space Council over the past year to develop a stronger partnership between local park districts and land conservation organizations and California State Park units in the Bay Area. Their leadership and support on the issue of stewardship and support of public agencies has been welcome. The Council is the perfect vehicle for working with these diverse constituencies in the Bay Area and to develop creative partnerships.

Ongoing resource stewardship is a major concern for State Parks. The Foundation recognizes that good stewardship requires a greater level of partnership, commitment and coordination and the sharing of information between the many agencies and organizations with related interests and responsibilities.

The grant will help the Council continue working with State Parks and their local partners to protect park resources and improve resource stewardship. It will also help State Parks integrate its activities with those of local agencies and land trusts. In addition the grant will support the development of regional habitat goals, and improve understanding of regional park and recreation needs. The results of this research should be of great benefit to State Parks as it develops priorities for future acquisitions and park improvements.

Thank you for considering the Council's grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hill
Vice President

Cc: John Woodbury

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OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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EMAIL calpark@calparks.org WEBSITE www.calparks.org

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County of Santa Clara

Environmental Resources Agency
Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, California 95032-7669
(408) 355-2200 FAX 355-2290
Reservations (408) 355-2201
www.parkhere.org



Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Grant Proposal from the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department I would like to express support for the Bay Area Open Space Council's grant proposal.

With more than 170 public agencies and land trusts active in the San Francisco Bay Area, there is a strong need for a regional perspective and coordination. The Bay Area Open Space Council has developed into an effective organization for meeting this need.

The grant proposal before you will help the region refine its goals by advancing understanding of regional habitat resources, threats, and priorities for protection and enhancement. It will also help the region get a better handle on what it costs to operate and maintain our system of parks, trails and outdoor recreational facilities, and provide educational and interpretive programs.

In addition, the grant will assist the Council in providing technical assistance and training to land conservation professionals and local governments interested in expanding their open space protection efforts.

Santa Clara County has adopted a detailed and ambitious countywide trail plan. The Council's proposed work in updating and performing more analysis of the region's collective trail plans should prove useful to us as we seek to implement our local plan, by demonstrating how our plan fits into the regional trail network, showing where gaps exist, and indicating where regional funds can be effectively utilized.



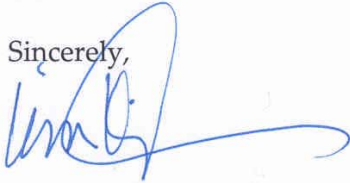
Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, Blanca Alvarado, Pete McHugh, James T. Beall, Jr., Liz Kniss
County Executive: Peter Kutas, Jr.



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The Bay Area Open Space Council's proposed scope of work fits well with the goals and objectives of the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Program. Your approval of this grant proposal would provide a benefit to my agency as well as the region.

Sincerely,

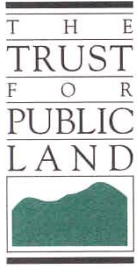
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Killough', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lisa Killough, Director

c: John Woodbury, Executive Director, BAOSC

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Conserving Land
for People

June 13, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Request for Support for the Grant Proposal from the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Trust for Public Land I would like to express our support for the work of the Bay Area Open Space Council and the grant proposal which is before you.

As a national organization with substantial experience in complex real estate transactions, the Trust for Public Land is often asked to assist with negotiating major land acquisition projects. Typically one of the biggest challenges with these projects is identifying the ultimate owner and manager of the land. The Council's growing role working with California State Parks and local public agencies to resolve long-term stewardship challenges is essential to addressing the problem of providing long-term management capacity. If not resolved, our ability to acquire and protect critical resources will be severely impacted. Included in the Council's proposal is funding to move forward in identifying long-term management solutions.

The Trust for Public Land has an active urban parks program designed to meet the needs of underserved communities. For example, we have for several years been involved in developing and improving parks in Oakland and San Francisco. Because of this work, we are very interested in the project the Council has recently launched to bring together urban open space and park groups with ranchers and farmers in Alameda County, for the purpose of identifying countywide resources and needs, and developing a consensus strategy for protecting those resources and meeting those needs.

The Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Conservancy Program has accomplished a great deal since its inception in 1997. Much of this accomplishment has been due to the close

The Trust for Public Land
Western Region
116 New Montgomery
Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

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EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

partnerships it has developed with the agencies and organizations which implement projects on the ground. These partnerships have been possible in large part because of the research and forum for dialogue provided by the Bay Area Open Space Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Tim Wirth
Director, Bay Area Program

cc: John Woodbury, BAOSC

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Regional Open Space

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Bay Area Open Space Council Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Morabito:

As General Manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District I would like to strongly endorse the Bay Area Open Space Council's grant request.

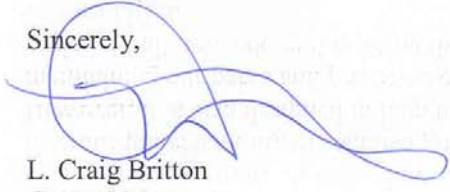
By working closely with the Council, the Coastal Conservancy has established the highly effective and well-respected Bay Area Conservancy Program. This program has become a model for how to implement state-local partnerships.

The grant proposal before you supports several inter-related projects which together will help the Coastal Conservancy advance the Bay Area Conservancy Program to the next level of effectiveness. A major initiative in this proposal is the development of a more rigorous understanding of regional goals. The initiative focuses on habitat values. However, it is also designed to help the region address the challenges of operating and maintaining our parks and protected open space lands, implementing the proposed regional trail network, and meeting the growing demand for family camping opportunities.

The grant proposal would also help fund a variety of sub-regional goal development and capacity building projects. I have seen first hand the value of these projects. In San Mateo County, the Council initiated a partnership approach to stewardship challenges in the western, coastal section of the county. The Council's work has led to a major project, now underway, to try and resolve the respective water needs of local agriculture and those of protected fish species. This work had the additional benefit of helping strengthen relationships between agricultural, environmental organizations, and park agencies. These improved relationships recently paid a big dividend for our District, with the endorsement of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau for the District's Coastside Protection Plan.

I urge your approval of the Bay Area Open Space Council grant proposal.

Sincerely,


L. Craig Britton
General Manager

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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President

Audrey C. Rust

April 15, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to encourage your support for the Bay Area Open Space Council's (BAOSC's) proposal to the Bay Area Conservancy Program.

As one of over 50 BAOSC members, we have seen firsthand the tremendous value of a well-organized regional partnership among conservation organizations. By sharing information, pooling resources, and developing strategies, the partnership helps maximize member organizations' effectiveness. Through the Council, the Bay Area Conservancy Program is superbly fulfilling its legislative mandate to work in partnership with local agencies and organizations.

The BAOSC's proposed project will accomplish multiple important objectives: launching a regional habitat goals study; capacity-building within sub-regions; and strengthening regional and statewide partnerships. These accomplishments will take our cooperative conservation efforts to the next level of sophistication and strengthen the science guiding the Coastal Conservancy's grant-making process.

I urge your support for this project of vital importance to future conservation initiatives in the diverse and remarkable Bay Area region.

Sincerely,

Audrey C. Rust
President

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